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RURAL DISTRICT OF BRECON.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

1940.

Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual report for the year 1940.In accordance with the wishes of the Welsh Board of Health,as expressed in Circular 2314(Wales),this report must again be considered to be an interim one and is confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year.

At the end of the war a report will be made dealing more fully with the period from the beginning of 1939 to the end of the last complete year.

Medical Officer of Health.

Dr.D.J.Jones,the first full time Medical Officer of Health to the district,terminated his appointment on December 31st,1939,to take up similar duties elsewhere.

This created a vacancy which I had the honour of filling on March 1st,1940.

Water Supplies.

It is satisfactory to note that during the year it was decided to proceed with new schemes for the provision of water to the districts of Trecastle and Velinfach.

Although the schemes were not completed at the end of the year it is to be hoped that there should be as little delay as possible as an adequate water supply would be of incalculable value to the districts concerned.

Infectious Disease.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified to me during the year is as follows:-

Measles.....50 cases.
Acute Primary Pneumonia.6 cases.
Scarlet Fever.....4 cases.
Cerebro-Spinal Fever....6 cases.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...1 case.
Enteric(Paratyphoid B)..1 case.
Pertussis.....7 cases.

As will be noticed the only outbreak of any severity was the epidemic of measles cases.They occurred in December,affected mainly the Sennybridge district and were,on the whole of a mild type.These cases were the start of quite a severe outbreak which continued well into the following year.
The sex and age incidence of this outbreak is shown in the following table.

Age.	Under 1.	1-2.	2-3.	3-4.	4-5.	5-10.	10-15.	20-35.	45-65.
Males.	0.	3.	4.	1.	2.	10.	4.	2.	0.
Females.	1.	2.	0.	2.	1.	8.	7.	2.	1.

The remaining cases of infectious disease were spread more or less over the year.

Rural District of Brecon.

Owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining a vehicle to convey patients to the Borough Isolation Hospital and also due to the fact that it is very costly to open this Hospital for occasional cases, I made an arrangement with the Merthyr Isolation Hospital to admit cases from the rural district. The Borough Hospital was therefore closed on April 11th and is now to be opened only when several cases occur at one time.

The work throughout the year was largely of a routine character and no exceptional administrative measures were introduced or recommended by me during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

T.C.R.GEORGE.

Medical Officer of Health.